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**PECULIARITIES OF FEEDING AND DAILY ACTIVITY OF ANTS  
OF GENUS *FORMICA* (INSECTA, HYMENOPTERA)  
IN FOREST-STEPPE BIOTOPES OF SARATOV REGION**

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The paper presents the results of our research on the foraging activity of ants in forest-steppe biotopes of the Saratov region. The food spectrum of ants was found to include small invertebrates (mainly insects), plant seeds and aphid honeydew. Ants are able to switch to the most massive type of food. *F. pratensis* behaves as a species with a daytime or morning-evening activity type, depending on the weather conditions. *F. rufa* is a species with a daily activity type.

*Key words:* ants, food spectrum, activity, Saratov Region.

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